

REMARKS

In response to the present Office Action, the Applicant sets forth the following amendments and remarks. Claims 1 – 19 were pending in the application. The Applicant has submitted a new drawing, Figure 4, with this present amendment. The Applicant has amended claims 1, 9, and 18. Claim 20 is newly added in this amendment. As a result, claims 1 - 20 are pending in the present application. The Applicant respectfully requests further examination of the application in light of the accompanying remarks.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to show a flow chart depicting the method claims (Claims 17 – 18) (sic). With regard to the objection to the drawings, the Applicant has submitted a new drawing, Figure 4, to depict a flow chart of the method claims 18 – 19 presently pending in the application. No new material has been added in Figure 4.

The Applicant kindly asserts that this objection is moot in light of the submittal of the additional drawing.

Rejection of Claims 1 – 5, 8 – 14, 17, and 18 - 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 5, 8 – 14, 17, and 18 - 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Acres (U.S. Patent No. 5,741,183). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicant respectfully asserts that Acres does not disclose all of the elements of the claimed present invention. For example, Acres does not claim or describe the use of a data collection device as described in the amended claims of the present application. The claimed present invention allows the manual input of data on prize dissemination via a data collection device having an actuator such as a button, a switch, or a touch screen. As a result, the present invention allows for the preservation of the integrity of the game accounting data by precluding the need for a game attendant to have access to the game accounting data. As a result, the game attendant cannot manipulate the game accounting data stored on the system of the claimed present invention. As a result, the game accounting data gathered by the claimed present invention may be used for accounting and auditing purposes.

The Applicant respectfully asserts that the newly added limitation is supported in the specification wherein a game attendant is disclosed as performing the newly claimed function. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the specification of the present application wherein the Applicant states:

"By using an operator-actuated method of input, e.g., buttons or switches, the game operator may efficiently and accurately track and store prize dissemination information." (See Page 1, Lines 20 – 22.); and

"The data collection unit may be configured with buttons **42**, or switches or any other known activation device." ... "Once a prize has been won by a contestant, the corresponding button or actuation device is actuated by the game attendant to indicate to the system that the particular prize has been won." (See Page 5, Lines 5 – 6 and 11 – 13.)

In light of said disclosure as contained in the specification, the Applicant kindly asserts that the amended claims may be properly entered for consideration as claims that are properly supported by the specification.

In contrast, Acres does not claim or teach the use of the data collection device as described in the amended claims of the present application. At least in this regard, the Applicant respectfully contends that Acres does not disclose every element and limitation of the claimed present invention. As a result, the Applicant respectfully asserts that the outstanding rejections of claims 1 – 5, 8 – 14, 17, and 18 - 19 may be properly withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 6, 7, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 6, 7, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Acres (U.S. Patent No. 5,741,183). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, the Applicant respectfully asserts that Acres does not disclose all of the elements of the claimed present invention. For the reasons as discussed above, the Applicant respectfully contends that Acres cannot be extended to render the claimed present invention as obvious. With respect to the disclosure of Acres, the overview of his system is described as a system including the following capabilities: remote reconfiguration, accounting data extraction, integrated player tracking, and cashless play. (See Acres at Column 6, Lines 30 – 33.) In addition, Acres teaches against manual entry in his system. For example, with respect to the use an attendant for bonusing jackpots, Acres says "This manual technique, however, is cumbersome and inefficient to administer because an attendant must be constantly

supervising the bonusing gaming devices.” (See Acres at Column 2, Lines 18 - 21.) As a result, the Applicant respectfully asserts that the outstanding rejections of claims 6, 7, 15, and 16 may be properly withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant has submitted a new drawing, Figure 4, with this present amendment. Claims 1, 9, and 18 have been amended in this response to the present Office Action. Claim 20 has been added. Claims 1 – 20 are pending in the present application. The Applicant respectfully requests further examination of the application in light of the accompanying remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

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